



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8**

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AUG 24 2011

Ref: 8EPR-N

Mr. Vince Hooper  
Project Manager  
Royal Gorge Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
3028 E. Main Street  
Canon City, CO 81212

RE: Over the River Final Environmental  
Impact Statement CEQ#20100260

Dear Mr. Hooper:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Over the River project in accordance with EPA responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. Section 4231 and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The EPA appreciates the level of consideration given in responding to agency and public comments that were provided during the review of the Draft EIS. We appreciate your efforts to address our concerns related to adequate management of hazardous materials and hazardous waste during the project and requiring the proponent to post a performance bond. Also, we commend your efforts to work cooperatively with representatives of Chaffee County, Fremont County, Canyon City Chamber of Commerce, State and Federal agencies. We encourage you to continue to work with these entities to look for ways to reduce the environmental footprint from all areas impacted by this project.

EPA continues to have some concerns regarding adequate identification of wetlands or sensitive vegetation areas prior to implementation of the project. In the response to comments on the Draft EIS, the FEIS stated that monitors will guide visitors and boaters from sensitive sites. Unless these sites have been identified, delineated and demarcated prior to implementation of the project, we are concerned that avoidance of these areas will not be possible.

Finally, although the Mass Transit Alternative 1b was eliminated from consideration based on transportation modeling, we encourage you to support mass transportation opportunities for visitors viewing the project.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the review of this project during the NEPA process. If you have any questions regarding EPA's input, please contact me at 303-312-6925, or David Duster of my staff at 303-312-665. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne J. Bohan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Suzanne J. Bohan  
Director, NEPA Compliance and Review Program  
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation

